

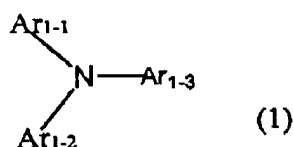
c) REMARKS

The claims are 23-26 with claims 23 and 24 being independent. Claims 23 and 24 were amended to better define the intended invention. Support for the amended claims is found, inter alia, on page 9, lines 3-4 and page 40, lines 18-24. Further, azo pigments are employed, inter alia, in Examples 1-10.

Claims 23-26 were rejected as obvious over Borsenberger '334 in view of JP '265, Kawamorita '214 or Kovacs '313. Borsenberger is said to teach a specific perylene compound (i.e., PPC) as the charge generating material. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the grounds of rejection, Applicants wish to briefly review certain key features and advantages of the present claimed invention. Initially, the claims have been amended to provide that an azo pigment is the charge-generating material.

An azo pigment is considered to be chemically reactive and relatively unstable because of the existence of azo bond(s) in the molecule. Therefore, traditionally azo pigments were deemed unsuitable for a charge generating material of an electrophotographic photosensitive member which is exposed employing exposure light whose wavelength ranges from 380 to 500 nm (i.e., having high energy). However, the present inventors have found that a combination of an azo pigment as a charge generating material and a triarylamine represented by the following formula (1) as a charge transport material, provides an electrophotographic photosensitive member whose stability after repeated use is excellent even if it is exposed with an exposure light whose wavelength ranges from 380 to 500 nm:

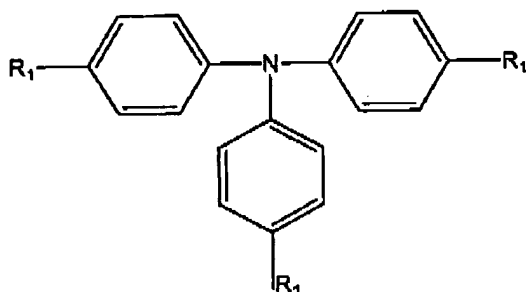


wherein each of Ar1-1, Ar1-2 and Ar1-3 is an unsubstituted phenyl group or a phenyl group substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of alkyl group, alkoxy group, halogen atom, aralkyl group, acyl group, haloalkyl group, cyano group, nitro group, phenylcarbamoyl group, carboxy group and hydroxy group.

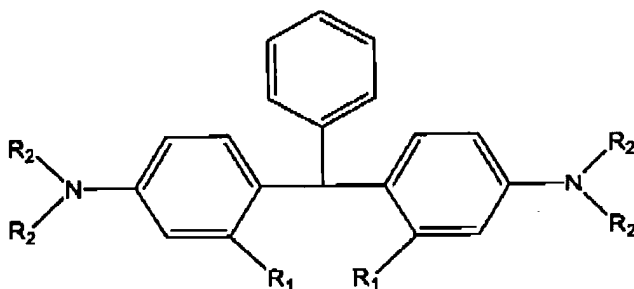
The superiority of the azo pigment and triarylamine combination is shown in Table 1 on page 45 and in Table 2 on page 47 of the present specification. Namely, in Example 1 to Example 10, electrophotographic photosensitive members in which the above-mentioned combination is used, are employed. Each of the resulting electrophotographic photosensitive member shows superior stability after repeated use, i.e., ΔV_d and ΔV_l are small. Furthermore, regarding the electrophotographic photosensitive member in Example 5, the transmittance of the charge transfer layer is rather low, i.e., 30%, and ΔV_d and ΔV_l are still small, i.e., -40 and +10, respectively.

On the other hand, regarding the electrophotographic photosensitive member in Comparative Example 3, in which the charge transport material of Example 5 is replaced with that of Comparative Compound 1 shown on page 44 of the present specification, the transmittance of the charge transfer material is comparable to that of the Example 5 electrophotographic photosensitive member. However, ΔV_d and ΔV_l are quite large, i.e., -210 and -80, respectively. The superiority of the combination of the present invention is believed to be supported by such comparative experimental results.

Regarding the art rejection, U.S. Patent No. 4,578,334 to Borsenberger teaches an electrophotographic photosensitive member in which a specific perylene compound is used as a charge generating material and compounds represented by the following formulas are used as a charge-transport material:



where R_1 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



where R_1 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms and R_2 is alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Borsenberger is devoid of any disclosure regarding the use of the azo pigment of the present invention as the charge generating material and fails to suggest the superiority of the instant combination. JP '265 (Kawamorita) merely discloses an electrophotographic apparatus using semiconductor laser light whose wavelength ranges from 400 to 500 nm. Kovacs discloses a color xerographic printing system provided with a quad semiconductor laser structure emitting four different wavelength laser beams of 450, 540, 670 and 830

nm. However, the three cited references are silent about the key features of the present invention.

The present amendment should be entered because it places the case in allowable form. Further, the amendment responds to the rejection based on Borsenberger '334, reduces the issues and places the case in better form for appeal. The final rejection should be withdrawn, the claims allowed and the case passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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